There are some limitations to the Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning Program.

While sufficient warning is perhaps the greatest defense against flood damage or loss of life, the Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning Program cannot tell you exactly where, when or how high the flood waters will be. The Program's main purpose is to alert you and your neighbors and give you sufficient warning so you can activate your personal plan of action in plenty of time to protect human lives and save or reduce damage to your home or business.

But it takes people like yourself for such a program to become operational and effective.

If you're interested in forming a Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning System in your area, are interested in becoming part of an existing program or want to know more about it, contact.

Susquehanna River Basin
Commission
5012 Lenker St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 737-0503

We think our Neighborhood Noahs will be a lot more successful than the original in warning and saving lives and personal property when the flood waters gather . . .

BEFORE THE FLOOD

- Develop your own plan of action.
- Decide what to do and in what order to do it.
- Determine how best to use the manpower available to you.
- Find out how and where to get other assistance.
- Know when to evacuate, the best routes to safety — then get out!

- ☐ Put valuable papers, paintings and records in an elevated, dry, safe storage area.
- ☐ Disconnect electric motors.
- ☐ Raise appliances above flood levels.
- ☐ Roll up rugs and move furniture to higher levels.
- ☐ Have emergency lighting (flashlights, candles) ready.
- ☐ Move yard furniture inside and secure outside floatable objects.
- ☐ Provide temporary storage for freezer contents.
- ☐ Turn off electricity at main switch.
- ☐ Turn off gas.
- ☐ Move pets or livestock to higher ground.
- ☐ Move the family automobile and other mobile equipment to high ground.

Remember, prompt action can cut your losses. Remember, too, that protecting lives is more important than protecting property.

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AND SOME WERE LEFT BEHIND...

neighborhood flash flood warning program

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docs,pa PY S9642.2 A543
And some were left behind :
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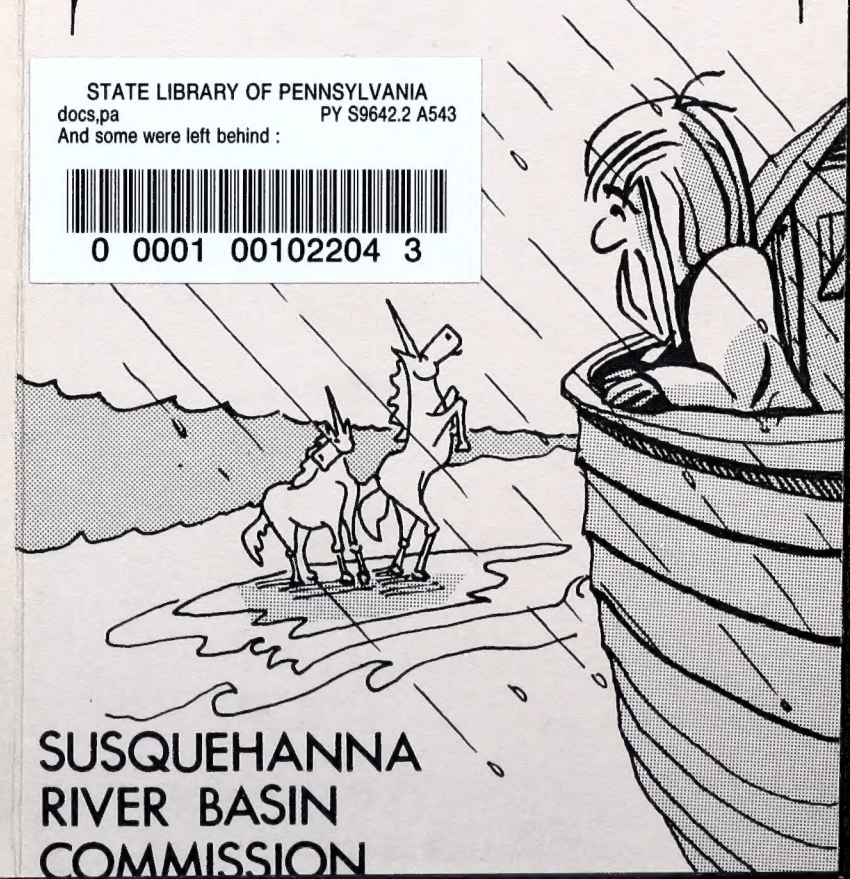


SUSQUEHANNA
RIVER BASIN
COMMISSION

During World War II, the British formed a corps of volunteer civilians called "skywatchers" to spot and warn the public of impending air attacks or incoming "buzz bombs". The "skywatchers" undoubtedly saved thousands of lives with their early warning system.

Today, there lurks another kind of "bomb" that can be even more devastating than any bomb attack - flash flooding.

Because of continuing growth in rural and suburban areas and the resulting covering over of the land, streams of all sizes often must handle more run-off in a shorter span of time than is possible for them to carry safely away.

As a result, flash flooding is occurring more and more often, sometimes in areas that have never seen high water before.

And when flash flooding hits, there's really only one thing to do - get out of its way as quickly as possible!

To do that, however, you need to be warned in plenty of time.

Taking a page from history, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, along with Civil Defense and local representatives, is helping organize a corps of civilian volunteers similar to the British "skywatchers". Called the "Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning Program", these people will have their sights set not on the sky, but on the streams which flow through their neighborhoods. Their purpose is to give residents and industries in a flood prone area as much early warning as possible to reduce damage and loss of life.

In biblical days, we are told that a man named Noah tried to warn his neighbors of an impending flood. Nobody listened then because they didn't believe it could happen there.

Flash floods usually seem just as unlikely as Noah's flood because they happen so fast and often in areas never hit by flooding before. Flash floods can rise to dangerous, inundating levels in minutes. And night-time flooding is even more dangerous and potentially devastating because persons are asleep and unaware it may even be raining.

SRBC, CD and your neighbors are trying to do as Noah did by recognizing the dangers and organizing ahead of time to provide their neighbors with as much warning as possible when flooding is imminent.

Here's how the Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning Program works:

- Volunteer Rainfall Observers report critical rainfall levels to the Neighborhood Coordinator.
- The Neighborhood Coordinator then does three things:
- Notifies local government officials and Civil Defense
- Contacts the National Weather Service
- Activates Stream and Road Patrol volunteers

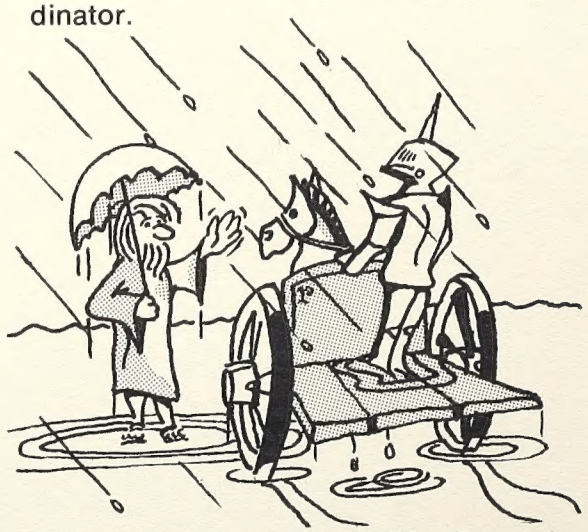
Once the threat of flash flooding is determined, local government and CD officials will:

- Sound the fire alarm or other warning signal
- Activate the Neighborhood Warning System to notify you of possible flooding in your area
- Provide evacuation assistance, if needed

For an idea like the Neighborhood Flash Flood Warning Program to work, it needs dedicated, reliable volunteers — people like you for a variety of duties.

No one is being asked to risk their lives or the lives of their loved ones to participate in this program. But there are certain duties you can assume and ways you can help. For example:

- Neighborhood Coordinator - Must be acquainted with the streams in his neighborhood, bridge locations, past trouble spots, changes in roads and locations of new homes. He assembles and evaluates rainfall information; informs others of dangerous situations; activates Stream and Road Patrols; monitors information concerning the flood; assists with evacuation through the Neighborhood Street Captains.
- Rainfall Observer - Must live in the neighborhood; be prepared to do the job over a long period of time; maintain accurate records; train other family members in rainfall gauge reading; maintain contact with the Neighborhood Coordinator.



- Stream and Road Patrol - Monitor and report flood conditions, the development of unexpected problems and areas needing the earliest warning and evacuation assistance.
- Street or Road Captain - Augment the mass alert system (fire sirens or alarm system) by notifying everyone in the neighborhood either by telephone or personal contact of possible flash flooding.